

A War Litany

L.H.M.S.

MILTON'S PROPHECY, 1637

LORDS and Commons of England, consider what Nation it is whereof ye are the Governours: a Nation not slow and dull but of a quick and piercing spirit, not beneath the reach of any point the highest that any human capacity can soar to. What wants there, but wise and faithful Labourers to make a Nation of Prophets, of Sages, and of Worthies.

I doubt not if some great and worthy stranger should come among us, wise to discern the temper and mould of a people, observing the high hopes and aims, the diligent alacrity of our extended thoughts, but that he would cry out as Pyrrhus did, admiring the Roman docility and courage, "if such were my Epirots I would not despair the greatest design that could be attempted to make a Church or Kingdom happy."

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A War Litany

Monday

Let us pray for the State

For the King and those in Power
For the Nation
For those who may arrange the
Peace



Tuesday

Let us pray for our Forces

By Sea
On Land
In Air

340.91

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v. 50

O LORD, we pray Thee to guide our King and Queen, and to grant them a supporting sense of Thy Presence and of their People's Love.

Grant to those in Power—whether in Parliament, the City, or the Field—Wisdom in Counsel, Promptness in Action, so that, upholding what is Right and following what is True, they may fulfil Thy Divine Purpose.

GRANT that as a Nation we may be more God-fearing, and earnest in obeying Thy Will: and that with Courage and Loyalty, Tranquillity and Self-control, we may accomplish that which Thou givest us to do, and bear that which Thou givest us to bear.

WE pray Thee to prosper all Counsels which tend towards such a sound and lasting Peace as shall deal justly between People and People, and bring about Fellowship among the Nations, for the Glory of God and the Relief of Man's Estate. ✓



O ALMIGHTY GOD, the Sovereign Commander of all the world, protect our Sailors and the Fleet in which they serve from the Dangers of the Sea and the Violence of the Enemy. Nerve them to meet the strain of Waiting and of their great Responsibility for the Welfare of the Nation. Make them alert in Watching and resistless in Fighting. ✓

GRANT that our Soldiers may be brave in Battle, high-hearted in Hardships, dauntless in Defeat and in Captivity, gentle in Victory. ✓

Remember those who have trained themselves in Peace to help their Country in War; and give them Skill and Courage, Endurance and Self-control, in the work now set them. ✓

O THOU Who bringest the winds out of Thy Treasures, let Thy guiding and protecting Hand be about our Airmen: and help those who love them to feel that underneath are the Ever-lasting Arms. ✓

Wednesday

Let us pray for other Nations

For our Allies
For our Kinsfolk and Brothers in
Arms
For our Enemies



Thursday

Let us pray for the Sad

For the Bereaved
For the Impoverished
For the Anxious

REMEMBER, O LORD, for good, the Belgians, the French, the Russians, and all our Allies—
and grant that the outcome of the War may be truer Brotherhood among the Nations. ✓

GIVE Thy special Blessing to those who have so generously come to our aid—the Dominions, the Colonies, the Indian Princes and Peoples—
and grant that the War may knit us all closer together as Fellow-workers with each other and with Thee.

FOR what our Enemies may do to us of Kindness and Mercy, reward them, O Lord, tenfold: and grant that we and they, learning to see each other's point of view, may be charitable in our Judgments.



LET Thy tender mercy be with those who are bereaved, and grant that they may be able to comfort others with the Comfort wherewith they themselves are comforted of Thee.

GIVE Courage to those who are impoverished or in Need: and knit us all closer to each other, by this opportunity of mutual Help.

GRANT Calmness and Control of Thought to those who are facing Uncertainty and Anxiety: let their Heart stand fast, believing in the Lord.

Be Thou all things to all men, knowing each one and his Petition, each House and its Need. (*Russian.*)

Friday

Let us pray for those who suffer

For humble Beasts
For the Wounded
For the Dying



Saturday

Let us pray for those who help our
Forces

For Army Chaplains, Doctors and
Nurses
For those called to live at Home
For those called to Paid Work

WE pray also, O Lord, for the humble Beasts who with us bear the burden and heat of the day, giving their lives for the well-being of their Countries : we supplicate for them Thy great tenderness of heart, for Thou hast promised to save both Man and Beast and great is Thy Loving Kindness, O Master, Thou Saviour of the World. (*Russian.*)

O THOU Who didst suffer wounds on the Cross, give the Wounded courage to endure and power to pray. Grant them Repentance and a sense of Thy Presence. Be Thou, O Lord Jesus Christ, their Repose by Night and their Succour in all Necessities.

WE pray Thee to show Thyself in mercy to the Dying : purify them by the Fire of Thy Love and may Light Eternal shine on them.



O LORD, Thou Lover of Souls, fill our Chaplains with a burning Love of Souls and keep them in such close touch with Thee, that they may worthily confirm the Strong and understandingly comfort the Sad. ✓

Grant to Doctors and Nurses, Skill, Coolness and Resource : nerve them in Danger, support them when wearied out ; and teach them that Thou Thyself art the Great Physician of both Body and Soul.

GRANT that we, who are called to live at Home, may form an Inner Line of Prayer which may effectually strengthen our Fighting Line abroad. Grant us to be calm and self-controlled : frugal and sensible in our daily Life : wise and business-like in our Efforts to help : thorough in every Duty.

GRANT love of their work to those who must abide in their Callings, and help them to see that, in carrying on the daily life of the Nation, they are Fellow-workers with the Soldiers, who die for it.

Grant both to those of us at Home, and to those in Callings, that to live in such glorious times may cleanse us from all Pettiness and Self-seeking ; and fill us with a gallant and undaunted Spirit, especially under Reverses, that we may be Diffusers of Life and invigorate all we meet.

Evening Prayer

O GOD Who never sleepest and art never weary,
 Have mercy upon those
 Who watch to-night :
 On the Sentry, that he may be alert ;
 On those who Command, that they may be
 strengthened with Counsels ;
 On the Sick, that they may obtain Sleep ;
 On the Mourners, that they may realise
 the Communion of Saints ;
 On the Anxious, that they may find
 Rest in Thee ;
 On the Careless, that they may turn to Thee ;
 On the Wounded, that they may find Ease ;
 On the Dying, that they may find Peace.



MAY we meet our Beloved Dead
 in
 the Mount of God
 where
 the Understanding is rich,
 the Will is satisfied,
 the Affections are all love and joy,
 and
 our weaknesses and dishonours
 shall be changed to
 the Strength and Beauties
 of the Sons of God.